

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0720

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW, OEXC

SUBJECT: DGB VISIT TO AFL-CIO

REF: BONN 4292

1. SUMMARY. A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION OF SEVEN DGB UNION LEADERS WILL DEPART JUNE 15 FOR A TEN-DAY VISIT TO THE US. THEIR PROGRAM IS BEING ARRANGED BY THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE AFL-CIO. END SUMMARY.

2. SEVEN INFLUENTIAL LEADERS FROM THE DGB AND ITS AFFILIATED UNIONS WILL VISIT THE UNITED STATES AS GUESTS OF THE AFL-CIO. THEIR PROGRAM IS BEING ARRANGED BY THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE AFL-CIO. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL DE-
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PARTMENT, MICHAEL BOGGS, DISCUSSED THE VISIT WITH

THE LABOR ATTACHE AND DGB OFFICIALS
DURING HIS VISIT TO THE DGB CONFERENCE IN HAMBURG.

3. THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, ALL OF WHOM ARE
FRIENDLY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDE:

HELMUT GEHLHORN - ARTICULATE AND INFLUENTIAL VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE MINERS AND ENERGY UNION, ONE OF THE
MOST ANTI-COMMUNIST UNIONS IN THE DGB. GEHLHORN IS
CLOSE TO UNION PRESIDENT ADOLF SCHMIDT, A LEADER
GRANTEE IN 1974 AND ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL LABOR
LEADERS IN THE DGB. SCHMIDT ACCOMPANIED HIS CLOSE
PERSONAL FRIEND, CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT, DURING
THE LATTER'S MOST RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THE
MINEWORKERS ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOP-
ING THE FRG'S ENERGY POLICY. ADOLF SCHMIDT IS A
MEMBER OF THE BUNDESTAG ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, AND ON
JUNE 11 HE WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD
BUNDESTAG FACTION AND WILL PLAY AN EVEN MORE IMPOR-
TANT ROLE IN THE SPD IN THE FUTURE. HORST NIGGE-
MEIER, EDITOR OF THE MINEWORKERS' "EINHEIT" ALSO
VISITED THE U.S. DURING THE PAST YEAR AND FREQUENTLY
PUBLISHES ARTICLES FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES.
NIGGEMEIER HAS ACTIVELY TRIED TO STRENGTHEN RELA-
TIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE AFL-CIO AND THE DGB AND BETWEEN
THE GERMAN MINEWORKERS UNION AND THE UNITED MINE-
WORKERS OF AMERICA.

KARLHEINZ SCHWARK - VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WOOD AND
PLASTICS WORKERS UNION. THIS UNION HAS SHOWN A
CONTINUING INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING CONTACTS WITH
THE AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION AND WOOD-WORKING UNIONS.
UNION PRESIDENT GERHARD VATER VISITED THE US MANY
YEARS AGO DURING THE MARSHALL PLAN AND MOST RECENTLY
AS THE GERMAN DELEGATE TO THE WASHINGTON MEETING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND CON-
STRUCTION WORKERS. RECENTLY, VATER VISITED AFL-CIO
PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY, JOSEPH KEENAN OF THE IBEW
AND THOMAS MURPHY OF THE BRICK-LAYERS, MASONS AND
PLASTERERS INTERNATIONAL.

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WILHELM KAPPELMANN - TREASURER OF THE LEATHER WORKERS
UNION WHICH HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF
KARL BUSCHMANN, PRESIDENT OF THE DGB TEXTILE AND
CLOTHING WORKERS UNION, AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL
TEXTILE AND GARMENT WORKERS UNION TO COOPERATE CLOSELY
WITH THE AFL-CIO TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND LEATHER WORKERS
UNIONS. BUSCHMANN RECENTLY VISITED THE US AS PART OF

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S DELEGATION AND LATER FOR TALKS
WITH AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY AND THE LEADERS OF
AMERICAN TEXTILE AND CLOTHING WORKERS UNION IN NEW
YORK.

PAUL PLUMEYER - MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE CHEMICAL, PAPER AND CERAMIC UNION. PLUMEYER
IS VERY ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND HAS

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TRAVELED CONSIDERABLY REPRESENTING THE DGB CHEMICAL
WORKERS UNION. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NEVER VISITED THE
US, HIS SON SPENT A YEAR IN THE US AS AN EXCHANGE
STUDENT. PLUMEYER WAS INTRODUCED TO MICHAEL BOGGS OF

THE AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DURING THE RECENT DGB CONVENTION. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT THE AFL-CIO HAD SENT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DGB CONVENTION. IN MARCH, EWALD BERGK, PRINCIPAL STAFF ASSISTANT OF THE CHEMICAL, PAPER AND CERAMIC WORKERS UNION ALSO VISITED THE US.

HELMUT WENDER - DIRECTOR OF THE FRANKFURT REGION AND MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE RAILROAD WORKERS UNION. WENDER WILL SOON BECOME THE SHOP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STEWART CHAIRMAN OF THE RAILROAD WORKERS UNION, PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT LABOR RELATIONS POSITION WITHIN THE RAILROAD WORKERS UNION, NOW THAT THE DEUTSCHE BUNDESBahn HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO TRY TO REDUCE EMPLOYMENT BY OVER 120 000. THE GERMAN RAILROADS HAVE A LARGE DEFICIT AND WENDER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE INTERESTED IN THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN REDUCING LABOR COSTS. WENDER WILL HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON AMERICAN RAILROAD ISSUES SINCE DR. RUDOLF HOFMANN, PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO PHILIP SEIBERT, PRESIDENT OF THE RAILROAD WORKERS UNION AND BUNDESTAG DEPUTY, ALSO RECENTLY ATTENDED THE BRAC CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON. WENDER MAY ALSO WISH TO CONTACT JACK OTERO AND OTHER US AFFILIATES OF THE ITF.

HANS MITTERER - REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE POSTAL WORKERS UNION IN BAVARIA, WILL PROBABLY WISH TO CONTACT THE COMMUNICATION WORKERS OF THE UNITED STATES WHOSE OFFICERS ARE WELL-KNOWN TO THE GERMAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE EUROPEAN UNIONS IN THE PTTI. THE PRESIDENT OF THE POSTAL WORKERS UNION, ERNST BREIT, WAS A LEADER GRANTEE IN 1973.

WALTER FRITZE - DIRECTOR OF THE DGB PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE DGB PRESS AND RELATIONS DEPARTMENT. FRITZE, WHO WAS DIRECTOR OF THE GERMAN PRESS AGENCY, DPA, FOR SEVERAL YEARS AFTER THE WAR, IS ONE OF VETTER'S PRINCIPAL SPEECH WRITERS AND IS ESPECIALLY WELL-INFORMED ON DGB DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY. HE PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN 1973 WHEN HE DELIVERED A LETTER FROM VETTER TO MEANY. HE ALSO SPENT A LONG VACATION IN THE US AND CANADA VISITING RELATIVES. PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD LIKELY BE DRAFTED BY FRITZE. FRITZE HAS TEMPORARILY REPLACED BERND OTTO (WHO ALSO VISITED THE UNITED STATES LAST YEAR) AS DIRECTOR OF

VETTER'S OFFICE, WHEN OTTO BECAME MANAGER OF THE
COOP. WE HAVE HEARD THAT FRITZE WILL LIKELY RETIRE
IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO BE REPLACED BY RICHARD
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BECKER, NOW DIRECTOR OF "WELT DER ARBEIT". HOW-
EVER, FRITZE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REMAIN ACTIVE ON THE
GERMAN LABOR SCENE AFTER HIS RETIREMENT FROM HIS
PRESENT POSITION IN THE DGB.
HILLENBRAND

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